
STATE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION

Charles O. Fisher, Sr., Esq., *Chairperson*, 1997
John M. Colmers, *Executive Director*

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The State Health Services Cost Review Commission was established in 1971 to monitor all fiscal affairs of Maryland's hospitals and related institutions (Chapter 627, Acts of 1971). The Commission publicly may disclose a hospital's financial position, its verified total costs incurred in rendering health services, and the level of reasonableness of its rates as determined by Commission review and certification. The Commission also evaluates the adequacy of each institution's financial resources to meet its financial requirements. When these resources are inadequate, the Commission seeks solutions.

The Commission assures purchasers of hospital health care that total costs are reasonable, that aggregate rates are set in relation to the hospital's aggregate costs, and that rates are set equitably among all purchasers of services.

The Commission consists of seven members appointed to four-year terms by the Governor, who also designates the chairperson. Authorization for the Commission continues until July 1, 2003 (Code Health—General Article, secs. 19-201 through 19-222).

STATE HEALTH RESOURCES PLANNING COMMISSION

Marcia Gann Pines, *Chairperson*, 1994
James R. Stanton, *Executive Director*

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The State Health Resources Planning Commission originated in 1968 as the Comprehensive Health Planning Agency (Chapter 221, Acts of 1968). The Agency was reformed as the Maryland Health Planning and Development Agency in 1978 (Chapter 911, Acts of 1978). In 1982, the State Health Resources Planning Commission replaced the Agency (Chapter 108, Acts of 1982).

The Commission promotes the development of a health care system that provides quality care at reasonable cost for all citizens. The Commission plans the development of quality health services within each health service area to meet current and future needs; identifies essential resources; and encourages the effective use of those resources. The Commission advocates policies and systems for efficient access to services, including acute, long-term, mental health, primary care, and community-based alternatives. The Commission

also coordinates its work with the State Health Services Cost Review Commission and the Maryland Health Care Access and Cost Commission and assesses the impact of plans and projects on total health care costs to Maryland and its citizens. In addition, the Commission prepares the State Health Plan and conducts the Certificate of Need Program to assure that institutions meet standards of public need before building or constructing new facilities.

The law creating the Commission also established local health planning agencies to serve health service areas designated by the Governor. These agencies are required to assure broad citizen representation of their region and in their activities, formulate local health plans, and help develop statewide criteria and standards for Certificate of Need and health planning. Local agencies may testify at evidentiary hearings or submit recommendations on the evaluation of Certificate of Need applications. Presently, local organizations serve the following designated health service areas: 1) Western Maryland counties of Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, and Carroll; 2) Montgomery County; 3) Southern Maryland counties of Prince George's, Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's; 4) Central Maryland area of Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford and Howard counties; and 5) Eastern Shore counties of Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester.

The Commission consists of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene or designee, and thirteen members appointed to four-year terms by the Governor. Five members represent local health planning areas, six represent health care providers, and two represent the general public. The Governor designates the chairperson. The Executive Director is appointed by the Commission with the approval of the Governor (Code Health—General Article, secs. 19-103 through 19-122).

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE ACCESS & COST COMMISSION

William C. Richardson, Ph.D., *Chairperson*, 1998
John M. Colmers, *Executive Director*

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In 1993, the Maryland Health Care Access and Cost Commission was created as an independent agency within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Chapter 9, Acts of 1993). The Commission develops strategies by which the costs of health care may be limited and access to health care services extended to all Marylanders. The Commission formulates a uniform set of benefits for the